Cases pending in subordinate courts

456. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about 2.4 crore cases pending in subordinate courts of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that prisoner population in country's jails has been increasing due to delay in disposal of cases in courts; and

(c) the major steps being taken by Government for early disposal of cases lying before courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) Yes Sir. As on 31.12.1998, about 2.02 crore cases were pending in subordinate courts of the country.

(b) The prisoners in jails constitute both the undertrial and the convicted. The influx of prisoners into jails is due to various factors, *inter-alia*, crime level in the country, terms of imprisonment, speed of disposal of cases by courts etc.

(c) Various steps have been taken in this regard for the speedy disposal of both civil and criminal cases. These include amendment to the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers and filling up of all vacant posts, establishment of Special Courts/Tribunals, improvement in the standard of legal education, appointment of Special Judicial/ Metropolitan Magistrate and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as arbitration, and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a staturoy base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes. Efforts are also being made to secure more funds for setting up of more courts, improvement in the infrastrucre of all courts including the District courts and courts subordinate thereto and increasing use of information technology in courts.

In addition to the above, the Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for creation of 1734 additional courts for expeditious disposal of sessions and other criminal and important civil cases in the subordinate courts.

Procedural changes regarding deaths or torture in Police custody

457. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: